

Summary: February 23, 2006 Board Meeting

The members of the Higher Education Coordinating Board met at Everett Community College on February 23, 2006. Chairman Gene Colin presided. Highlights from the meeting include:

- **Chairman's report:** Mr. Colin discussed the board's recently concluded retreat in which the members took a hard look at the agency -- its purpose, challenges and opportunities, and plans for improvement. Mr. Colin declared it a "new day" and reaffirmed the board's mission and desire to be a resource for students, institutions and citizens.
- **Amendments to Board Bylaws:** Deputy Director Joann Wiszmann discussed some technical changes to the board's bylaws, including election of its officers and terms of office. The board will adopt the amended bylaws at its meeting in March.
- **Update on 2006 legislative issues:** Ms. Wiszmann and Chris Thompson, Director for Government, College and University Relations, provided a status report on a number of higher education issues that are under consideration by the 2006 legislature.
- **Executive Director's report:** Dr. Jim Sulton discussed some of the issues and activities that the board has been following, including: recent changes in the Washington Learns project, updates on the Prosperity Partnership, the possibility of establishing a student committee of the board, and the latest GET (Guaranteed Education Tuition) enrollment data.
- **Internet2 and Beyond:** Dr. Louis Fox, University of Washington professor and vice provost, discussed how changes in the Internet are expected to transform instruction and research in American higher education. Because Internet2 technology is thousands of times faster than today's Internet, it enables users to receive streaming real-time audio and video and interact with instructors and other students worldwide.
- **New degree program approved:** The board unanimously approved Eastern Washington University's new degree program proposal, BA in Women's and Gender Studies (Res. 06-04).
- **Measures for assessing implementation of HB 1794 approved:** The board unanimously approved a set of measures that will be used to assess progress in implementing the provisions of HB1794, calling for expanded student access to baccalaureate programs (Res. 06-06).

- **Status report on major-ready pathways:** Andi Smith, associate director for academic policy, described progress, recommendations, and next steps in developing transfer associate degrees called for under HB 2382.
- **Senate and House 2006 supplemental budgets:** Holly Lynde, fiscal analyst, presented highlights of the 2006 supplemental budgets released by the House and Senate.
- **2005-06 Washington State tuition and fee report:** Policy Analyst Kathy Raudenbush presented graphs illustrating tuition and fees at Washington public colleges and universities compared to their peers, other western states, and nationally.

Materials presented at the meeting are available at <http://www.hecb.wa.gov/boardmtgs/index.asp>

Next meeting: March 30, 2006, 9:00 – 4:00 p.m., at Western Washington University

- The role of independent colleges in Washington's higher education system
- "Turning Promise into Practice" - A presentation from the League of Education Voters
- A discussion of statewide role and mission for higher education